

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DOHA 00527 051220Z

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

SAB-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 OMB-01 /072 W

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R 051143Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0416

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR QA EG

SUBJ: EGYPTIAN INFORMATION MINISTER VISITS QATAR: MENA TO
ASSIST IN ESTABLISHING QATAR NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY

1. EGYPTIAN MINISTER OF INFORMATION AHMAD KAMAL ABU-AL-MAJD
BEGAN FOUR DAY VISIT TO QATAR ON MAY 4. GOQ MINISTER OF INFORMATION
KAWARI TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT VISIT WAS IN GENERAL CONTEXT OF
CONTINUING COORDINATION OF GOQ AND GOE INFORMATION POLICY,
AND PARTICULARLY TO CONCLUDE AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH EGYPTIAN
MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY WOULD ASSIST GOQ IN ESTABLISHING QATAR
NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY. ACCORDING KAWARI, MENA WILL SET UP
QNNA AND UNDER THREE-YEAR AGREEMENT WILL TRAIN A QATARI STAFF
TO RUN ORGANIZATION.

2. COMMENT: AGREEMENT WITH MENA WILL EXPAND ALREADY SIGNIFICANT
EGYPTIAN INFLUENCE OVER QATARI MEDIA. OTHER PREPONDERANT
INFLUENCE IS PALESTINIAN. IN FACT, MINISTER OF INFORMATION
HIMSELF IS ONLY QATARI IN INFORMATION POLICY-MAKING ECHELON
HERE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DOHA00527
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750156-0907
From: DOHA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750578/aaaactsm.tel
Line Count: 51
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <03 DEC 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EGYPTIAN INFORMATION MINISTER VISITS QATAR: MENA TO ASSIST IN ESTABLISHING QATAR NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY
TAGS: PFOR, QA, EG, (MAJD, AHMAD KAMAL ABU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006